MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state what the principle was that actuated them in the selection of certain officers in preference to others of similar status?

PRESIDENT: I was writing the address late at night, and put the names that flashed through my mind at that moment. There is absolutely no reflection on anybody. It is due to forgetfulness and nothing else.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): I am very much obliged to the Chair. That is all what I wanted to know.

Estimates for Public Works costing more than Rs. five lakhs.

375. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Is there any work now in progress or is about to be started by the Public Works Department the estimated cost of which exceeds five lakhs of rupees?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There is no work costing over Rs. 5 lakhs now in progress and the only one now under consideration is the Trivandrum water supply scheme. It is too early to say when the work will be started.

Benefits of Co-operative Societies to be given to Chitties, etc.

376. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to extend the benefits, supervision and encouragement given by them at present to Co-operative Credit Societies, to *Chitties* and *Karayogams* as well?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): *Chitties*, the value of which is not less than Rs. 100 in each case are now governed by the Chitties Regulation, III of 1094, as amended by Regulation I of 1100 and they are subject to such Government supervision as is laid down in that Regulation. The Government are not aware of the objects and constitution of *Karayogams* and cannot therefore decide whether these conform to the co-operation principle.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Are not the co-operative societies allowed certain special benefits in the matter of exemptions from stamp duty and other such dues to the Government?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): They are.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Are the *Chitties* allowed such benefits?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know whether such benefits cannot be granted to *Chitties* also?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The principles governing *Chitties* will have to be known to the Government before they consider the question of granting these benefits to *Chitties* also.

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MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Are not the Government aware that *Chitties* are co-operative organisations of indigenous growth?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): What is there to prevent these benefits, now accorded to co-operative societies, being extended to *Chitties* also?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): The question has to be considered.

Office Peons employed by the Superintendent, Stamp Manufactory, as domestic servants.

377. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(1) how many peons are permitted to work in the house of the Superintendent, Stamp Manufactory, and how many are actually working there now; and

(2) whether it is a fact that a Nair peon is deputed to carry meals for the Superintendent and for his children at school and take back the remnants?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*):

(1) One of the three peons of the Stamp Manufactory has been and is still retained as a personal peon.

(2) The answer is in the negative.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know the nature of the work that is expected to be done by these personal peons?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Ag. Financial Secretary to Government*): It is a general question.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I rise to a point of order. When a supplementary qestion is put to an official member, should it not be answered although it is a general question? With respect to the supplementary question put by my friend Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai, the Financial Secretary merely stated that it was a general question, and did not answer it.

PRESIDENT: As the Member who put the supplementary question sat down, it was thought that he did not want to pursue the matter further.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): He did not want it, Sir. But as a matter of principle may I know whether a general question need not be answered at all?

PRESIDENT: The Member who put the supplementary question sat down as if he was quite satisfied with the answer although he was entitled to pursue the matter further.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): All right, Sir; I shall myself put a general question and see whether it is answered or not.

PRESIDENT: Yes, put a test question like that.

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